

Description

Multiband antenna array for mobile radio equipment

The invention relates to a multiband antenna array for mobile radio equipment, comprising a planar patch antenna that has at least two resonances and is provided with a connection to ground and a high-frequency interface and at least two parasitic transmitters which are located marginal to the planar patch antenna and are each embodied so as to be free of a high-frequency interface.

As a result of the continuous developments in the area of mobile radio technology, such as for example the expansion of the GSM network (GSM = Global System for Mobile Communication) through the UMTS network (UMTS = Universal Mobile Telecommunications System), antennas designed to cover several frequency bands are needed. At the same time, because of the sophisticated requirements of many customers, mobile radio equipment must firstly be designed so as to be smaller and more compact in terms of its dimensions and secondly be manufactured more inexpensively.

For this reason, the antennas for mobile radio equipment also have to be optimized in terms of frequency coverage, manufacturing costs and the structural space needed for the antenna.

In order to be able to cover multiple frequency bands with the multiband antenna, a number of solutions are already known. In one variant of the solution, multiple planar patch antennas are integrated in a mobile radio device. A disadvantage of integrating multiple antennas into one multiband antenna is

that multiple feed points are required for the planar patch antennas, and consequently the construction of the multiband antenna is complicated.

In the applicant's European patent EP 1 024 552 A2, a multiband antenna is presented which was already an improvement in terms of the production costs and spatial requirements. This improvement was achieved by virtue of the fact that the multiband antenna consists of a combination of multiple different types of antenna which are all fed at just one point. By this means, both the manufacturing costs and the spatial requirements of the antenna can be reduced.

For the latest generation of mobile radio equipment, however, this multiband antenna is still not satisfactory in terms of its spatial requirements and manufacturing costs.

The object of the invention is therefore to find a multiband antenna array for mobile radio equipment that enables a further reduction in manufacturing costs while simultaneously reducing the antenna space needed.

This object is achieved in the features of the independent Claim 1. Advantageous further developments of the invention are the subject of the subordinate claims.

In accordance with the general inventive idea, the inventors propose a multiband antenna array for mobile radio equipment, comprising a planar patch antenna that has at least two resonances and is provided with a connection to ground and a high-frequency interface and at least two parasitic transmitters which are located marginal to the planar patch antenna and are each embodied so as to be free of a high-

frequency interface.

The parasitic transmitters can be arranged closely adjacent to the planar patch antenna. In this way, the overall structural space for the multiband antenna array can be designed so as to be extremely compact. Parasitic transmitters are deemed to be types of antenna that do not have a high-frequency interface. The two parasitic transmitters can for example be designed for the GSM850 band and for the GSM1900 band.

The planar patch antenna can be fashioned both as a planar inverted F-antenna (PIFA antenna) and as a planar inverted L-antenna. This planar patch antenna can, for example, have resonances in the GSM900 band and in the GSM1800 band.

Favorable arrangement of the planar patch antenna and of the marginally located parasitic transmitters opens up a plurality of different production methods for this multiband antenna array.

The antenna can be manufactured from Fr4 material. The disadvantage here is that for this the antenna has to be planar, that is can be extended in two dimensions only.

A further production method for this multiband antenna array is stamping and forming technology. In this case, it is possible to shape the multiband antenna three-dimensionally. By this means, the multiband antenna array can be adapted for example to the shape of the mobile radio equipment housing.

The multiband antenna array can, however, also be produced using the MID method (MID = molded interconnect devices). With this, as with stamping and forming technology, three-

dimensional forms of multiband antenna can be produced. However, compared with stamping and forming technology, the MID method enables the production of finer-precision antenna structures.

The multiband antenna array also enables the realization of different types of coupling between the planar patch antenna and the parasitic transmitters. The type and strength of the coupling makes it possible either to enlarge the bandwidth of a resonance generated by the antenna patch or to integrate an additional resonance. In this case, through radiative coupling and/or galvanic coupling with the shared ground of the antenna system, the parasitic transmitters can be excited by the patch structure.

It is favorable if at least one parasitic transmitter is provided with a connection to ground. This gives rise to a galvanic coupling of this parasitic transmitter to the planar patch antenna. The second parasitic transmitter can then be connected for example by means of radiative coupling to the planar patch antenna, i.e. the coupling between the planar patch antenna and the second parasitic transmitter takes place through radiation excitation for example over the airway.

The planar patch antenna and the parasitic transmitters can be arranged in a plane. By this means, the multiband antenna can for example be incorporated particularly flatly in the housing of the mobile radio device, as a result of which the mobile radio device, for example a mobile phone, can be designed so as to be slimmer and thus more compact overall .

Sometimes, however, it is also advantageous for at least one parasitic transmitter to have a spatial extension, emerging

preferably perpendicularly out of the plane of the planar patch antenna. By this means, the surface of the antenna can be reduced so as to conform better to certain design parameters.

Additional features and advantages of the invention will emerge from the description below, with reference to the drawings, of exemplary preferred embodiments.

The invention will be explained in detail below with reference to the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a planar multiband antenna array comprising a planar patch antenna, two parasitic transmitters and comprising a total of four contact points;

Figure 2 shows a planar multiband antenna array comprising a planar patch antenna and two parasitic transmitters which both use the same connection to ground;

Figure 3 shows a multiband antenna array comprising a planar patch antenna, a planar parasitic transmitter, a three-dimensionally extended parasitic transmitter and comprising a total of four contact points;

Figure 4 shows a multiband antenna array as shown in Figure 3, the three-dimensionally extended parasitic transmitter having no connection to ground.

Figure 1 shows a planar multiband antenna array. The planar patch antenna labeled 1 has in this embodiment two resonances 1.1 and 1.2 which are symbolized by arrows. This planar patch antenna 1 has both a connection to ground 1.M and a high-frequency interface 1.RF.

Two parasitic transmitters 2.1 and 2.2 are arranged in the same plane of the planar patch antenna 1. The parasitic transmitters

2.1 and 2.2 are each provided with their own connection to ground 2.1.M and 2.2.M and thus have a galvanic and an electromagnetic coupling to the planar patch antenna 1. The first parasitic transmitter 2.1 extends almost over three adjacent sides of the planar patch antenna 1, while the second parasitic transmitter 2.2 extends only on one side. These different embodiments of the parasitic transmitters 2.1 and 2.2 make it possible for two further resonances to be set. The resonances of the parasitic transmitters are not shown in Figure 1.

Figure 2 shows a further embodiment of the multiband antenna array. The planar patch antenna 1 is constructed similarly to that in Figure 1. In contrast to Figure 1, the parasitic transmitters 2.1 and 2.2 here both use the same connection to ground 2.12.M and are thus galvanically and electromagnetically coupled to the planar patch antenna 1.

Figure 3 shows a special embodiment of the multiband antenna array. The planar patch antenna 1 has both a connection to ground 1.M and a high-frequency interface 1.RF. A parasitic transmitter 2.2 is arranged in the same plane as the planar patch antenna 1 on the right-hand side in Figure 3. This parasitic transmitter 2.2 extends over one side of the planar patch antenna 1 and, through its connection to ground 2.2.M, has a galvanic and an electromagnetic coupling to the planar patch antenna 1. The first parasitic transmitter 2.1 arranged on the left-hand side in Figure 3 also has its own connection to ground 2.1.M. This parasitic transmitter 2.1 is three-dimensionally extended and extends outside the plane of the planar patch antenna in the form of alternate meander-shaped turns.

Figure 4 shows the multiband antenna array from Figure 3. In contrast to Figure 3, this embodiment of the multiband antenna array is provided with only three contact points. The three-dimensionally extended parasitic transmitter 2.1' does not have its own connection to ground and thus has a purely radiative coupling to the planar patch antenna.

Overall, the invention thus provides a multiband antenna array for mobile radio equipment that can be manufactured particularly inexpensively and can cover as many frequency bands as possible, while requiring minimal space in the mobile radio device.

It will be understood that the aforementioned features of the invention can, without departing from the scope of the invention, be used not only in the combination described in each case but also in other combinations or in isolation.

List of reference characters

1	planar patch antenna
1.M	connection to ground of the planar patch antenna
1.RF	high-frequency interface of the planar patch antenna
1.1	first resonance of the planar patch antenna (symbolized by the arrow)
1.2	second resonance of the planar patch antenna (symbolized by the arrow)
2.1	first parasitic transmitter
2.1'	first parasitic transmitter without a connection to ground
2.2	second parasitic transmitter
2.1.M	connection to ground of the first parasitic transmitter
2.2.M	connection to ground of the second parasitic transmitter
2.12.M	shared connection to ground of the first and second parasitic transmitters